

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8, 11-15, and 18-20 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 1, 2, and 6 are amended. Claims 4-8 and 11-14 are withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected embodiment. Claims 9-10 and 16-17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,846,279 (Stieler).

Alternatively, claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Stieler in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,610,491 (Götz).

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 16 and 17 and now recites “means for limiting rotation of at least one of said cylinders and said cylinder segments relative to a desired position, said means for limiting rotation comprising spur gears fixed to at least one of said cylinders and said cylinder segments, said spur gears each having teeth with tooth flanks, said spur gears meshing with rotational flank play and without said tooth flanks touching one another”. This feature is shown in Fig. 5 and described at paragraph 0031 of the present application.

Stieler fails to disclose, teach or suggest the above limitation now recited in independent claim 1. For purposes of limiting the mutual rotation of cylinders 12 and 14, Stieler discloses the use of stops 36, 37 and/or limit switches (see col. 4, lines 44-57). However, there is no disclosure that spur gears can be used as a means for limiting rotation of at least one of said cylinders and said cylinder segments relative to a desired position, as expressly recited in independent claim 1.

Gotz fails to disclose what Stieler lacks. Gotz relates to an electrical drive system for the positioning of rotating equipment. Angle position control and other controls are accomplished by a signal processor that receives feedback (see col. 2, line 56 to col. 3, line 7) and observes limiting values (col. 3, lines 13-15). However, there is no mention whatsoever of spur gears that can be used as a means for limiting rotation of at least one of said cylinders and said cylinder segments relative to a desired position, as expressly recited in independent claim 1.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, independent claim 1 is allowable over Stieler and Gotz.

Dependent claims 2-3, 15 and 18-20 are allowable for at least the same reasons as is independent claim 1.

Regarding withdrawn claims 4-8 and 11-14, these claims depend from independent claim 1 and therefore, upon allowance of independent claim 1, withdrawn claims 4-8 and 11-14 should be considered.

Claims 2 and 6 are amended to be consistent with the changes made to independent claim 1.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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